



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #V.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: James E. Rier, Jr. Commissioner*

Date: October 14, 2014

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program *Concept Approval Consideration*;
Sanford School Department for a new Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Sanford Superintendent, David Theoharides, representing the Sanford School Board formally requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new 9-12 Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center. If approved, the new facility will replace the existing school which is extremely overcrowded. It will be built on 120+ acres in Sanford that the State Board of Education gave Site Approval to on August 12, 2014.

Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Vocational Center was rated number two in need during the States' most recent rating cycle. If the new facility is approved the existing school will be renovated and used either as a middle school or as a consolidated elementary school housing students from several old elementary schools in Sanford. Three of the elementary schools scored high in need on the last rating cycle.

The proposed new school complex went through a vigorous visioning process with strong community involvement. The Superintendents' Advisory Board of the Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center and the six communities that they represent support the new Regional Career and Technical Center curriculum and facility.

If approved, the new facility will have the capacity to house 1015 Sanford High School students daily and 404 career and technical education students per half day. The two programs will be integrated as one, The Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center.

The proposed new facility is being designed to meet all current codes, high performance standards, and all the appropriate local and state agencies have been contacted, and where necessary, documented approvals are on file. It also meets all existing State statutes and the State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

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Concept Approval Consideration

Sanford School Department

Grades 9-12

Date: October 14, 2014

Superintendent, David Theoharides has provided the following information on the proposed project.

The Sanford High School and Regional Technical Center building project will provide students in Sanford and our six sending school districts with expanded opportunities in both traditional high school and Career Technical Education, CTE, (previously known as vocational education), through a state of the art, integrated learning campus.

The new campus will be organized in four “Career Pathways:” *Science & Technology, Business & Management, Arts & Communication, and Human Services*. These pathways, identified by our Technical School staff, will cluster similar disciplines into smaller learning communities. Traditional secondary academic programs would also be clustered in related pathways. Similar to the Mt. Blue/Foster Tech building project, our students and faculty in both traditional academic and technical school programs would have increased opportunities to collaborate and support each other in these pathways. In addition, traditional programs such as math and English will be customized to focus on the interests and aspirations of the students in each pathway.

The pathways will allow students greater opportunities for electives in both traditional academic and technical school programs. Technical school students from both Sanford and our six sending schools would be able to participate in courses related to their area of focus and interests. For example a student in Welding could also take an elective in Computer Assisted Design and Draft (CADD), and fulfill his English graduation requirements by taking an English class in his pathway focused more on technical writing. We also anticipate increasing graduation rates by placing freshmen students in pathways that they choose and thereby increasing engagement with school by helping them see the value of all the related academic and technical programs.

The new school facility will also provide drastically needed improvements to our Technical School labs, allowing us to better meet work place standards and requirements for our graduates. The proposed education areas were designed with significant input from our Technical Center faculty and will allow us to meet current and future needs for these robust and complex programs. In addition to adding new or expanded Technical School programs in *Law Enforcement, Cosmetology, Business & Marketing, Culinary Arts, and Automotive Technology*, we will also be bringing our three satellite programs, *Culinary Arts, Early Childhood, and CNA*, into our new facility. This will allow better administration of these programs, but more importantly allow us to provide students in these programs with greater opportunities to participate in electives and integrated academic courses.

Sanford High School currently has 12 portable classrooms, (trailers), used to house students that cannot fit in the existing facility. This poses huge challenges with building security and supervision. Our new facility, with limited secure access points, will allow us to provide a safer environment for our students, while providing a campus that better meets the needs of our students. The smaller learning communities

of each pathway will allow students from all our sending schools to collaborate, work together, and socialize with students having similar interests and career aspirations. Our faculty and staff will have greater opportunities to collaborate, manage and monitor students within these small learning communities to ensure improved student success.

Over the past several years the Sanford School Department has sought input from our Technical School sending schools staff and students regarding programming that would interest all students in Southern York County. More importantly, addressing the logistical needs regarding transportation times, coordinated calendars and schedules, credit recovery, and meeting the needs of the new Maine Proficiency Based Diploma have also been a focus of these discussions.

The Sanford High School and Regional Technical Center campus will remodel traditional high school and technical school education allowing it to better meet the career and post-secondary needs of our students. On behalf of the citizens of Sanford/Springvale and the many students from all our sending schools, I thank the State Board of Education for their continued support of this project.

Project Information

Project: Sanford High School and Regional Technical Center
Superintendent: David Theoharides
Principal: Marianne Sylvain
Architect: Lance Whitehead of Lavallee/Brensinger Architects
Schools to be closed: Present Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$103,016,632.
Local Only (no State participation): \$10,628,450.
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$92,088,182.
Other Funding (Grants, Gifts, Etc.): \$300,000. (gas line extension)

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Sanford School Department for the construction of a new Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On October 3, 2014, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Sanford School Department for a new Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center.

*Prepared by: The School Facilities Team